

OPERATION SECURE STORESM

Proper firearm storage for businesses is paramount to insure safety and limit liability. In recent years, federal firearms licensees (FFLs) nationwide have seen a decrease in the number of firearms stolen from their businesses when they have been the victim of a burglary or robbery.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) tracks the number of FFL burglaries and robberies each year. According to ATF's data, burglaries peaked in 2017 at 577, a 71 percent increase from 2013. In 2019, the number dropped to 343, a 41 percent decrease from 2017, showing a positive trend of decreased FFL burglaries.

The number of robberies from FFLs decreased 28 percent from 2018 to 2019. According to the ATF 4,691 firearms were stolen from FFLs in burglaries and robberies in 2019, a drop of 73% compared to the peak in 2017.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and members of the firearm industry are concerned about these trends and are working to support further declines.

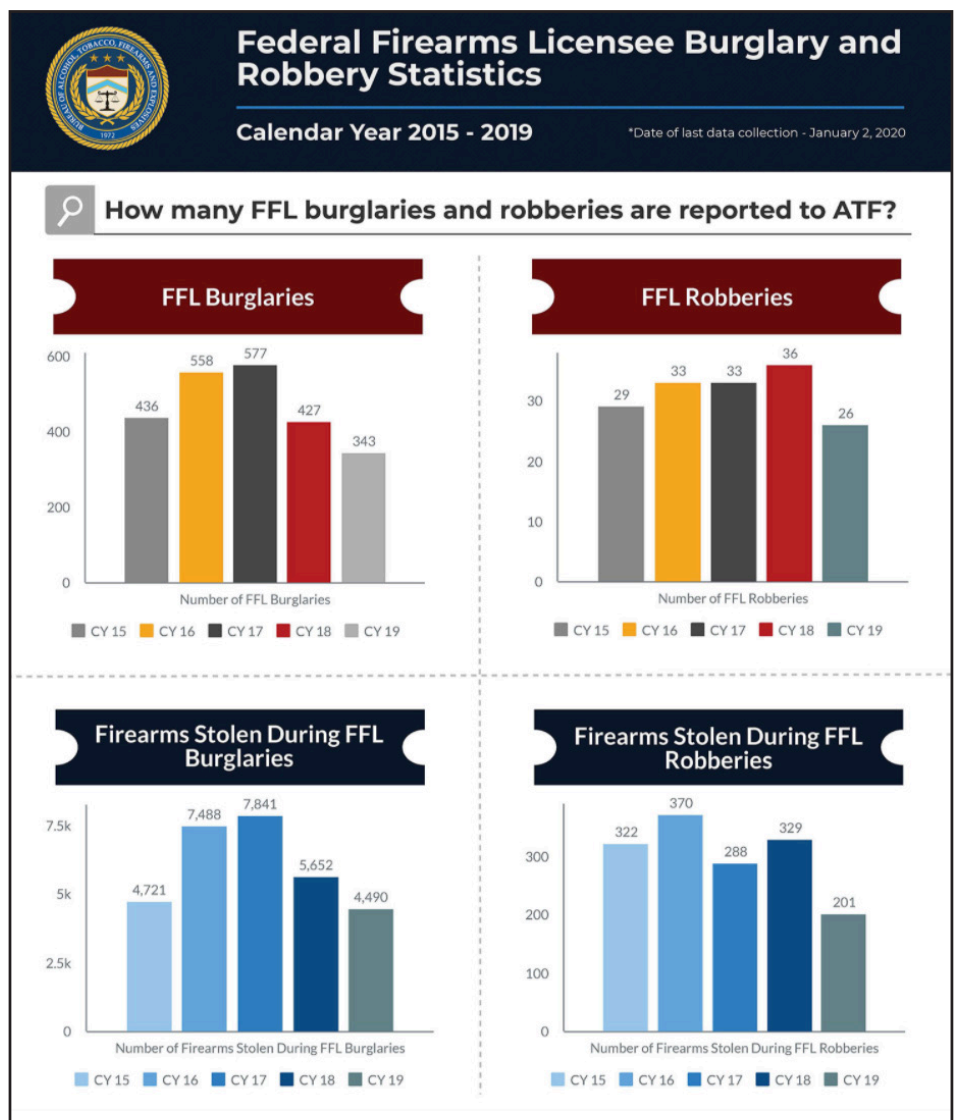
That's why NSSF, as the trade association for the firearm industry, is cooperating with ATF to try to address this problem, through an initiative launched in January 2018 called Operation Secure Store® (operationsecurestore.org). As part of Operation Secure Store, NSSF matches ATF reward offers for information regarding these crimes. Additionally, NSSF is helping to educate FFLs on steps they can take to reduce the chance guns will be stolen from them during a burglary or robbery. NSSF, in cooperation with

ATF, conducts retailer store security seminars.

As a separate part of this initiative, NSSF independently assists retailers by offering in-depth security audits of their premises and endorses the use of security products such as protective window film and smash-resistant display cases. NSSF members can get discounts on products and services

through affinity partnerships.

While presenting options for FFLs to choose, it is important to keep in mind that every store is different and there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Even when following best practices and taking proper precautions, FFLs remain high-value targets for determined criminals seeking to illegally obtain firearms.



Source: ATF Infographic, <https://www.atf.gov/infographics/federal-firearms-licensee-burglary-and-robbery-statistics-calendar-year-2015-2019>

